



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Mark J. Sabourin

Serial No. 08/907,687

Examiner: M. Alvo

Filing Date: August 8, 1997

Group Art Unit: 1731

For: Method of Pre-treating Lignocellulose Fiber-Containing
Material for the Pulp Making Process

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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JUL 23 2001
TC 1700

RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

In response to the official action dated March 14, 2001, applicant requests entry and consideration of the following amendment and remarks. This paper is being filed within one month of the shortened statutory due date, and a petition for such one-month extension is hereby made and the associated fee is enclosed.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims: Please amend claims 31 and 36 and add new claim 38 as follows:

31. (Thrice Amended) A method for producing thermo-mechanical pulp in a primary disc refiner from lignocellulose fiber-containing feed material comprising the steps of:

first conditioning said fiber-containing feed material in an environment of saturated steam at an elevated pressure in the range of about 15-25 psig to produce a conditioned feed material [at a temperature above 100 deg. C];

Mailing Certificate

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date given below with the United States Post Office Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Date: July 16, 2001

L. James Ristas, Reg. No. 28, 663